

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BONGO-- US BUSINESS VISITORS

REF: STATE 22950

SUMMARY: IN MEETING SEPTEMBER 29, PRESIDNET BONGO REARRIRMED  
STRONG INTEREST IN HAVING MORE AMERICAN COMPANIES DO  
BUSINESS AND INVEST IN GABON. END SUMMARY.

1. HOUR LONG MEETING SEPTEMBER 29 WITH PRESIDNET BONGON  
DEALT ALMOST ENTIRELY WITH FOLLOW UP TO HIS US VISIT AND  
PLANS FOR FORTHCOMING VISITS BY AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN.

2. I GAVE PRESIDNET LIST OF BUSINESSMEN WHOSE TRAVEL PLANS  
ARE REASONABLY FIRM: JAVOR AND LANTENOIS OF SOROS  
ASSOCIATES (ALREADY HERE); JOLLY OF UNITED TECHNOLOGIES  
(INTERESTED IN POWER SYSTEMS); WALLACE AND BATH OF PAN-  
AMERICAN AND MAUGER OF BOEING; SLOAN OF BROWN AND ROOT;  
AND REPRESENTATIVES OF ITT AND OF COMPANIES INVOLVED  
IN AGRIBUSINESS TECHNICAL SALES SEMINAR SCHEDULED FOR  
EARLY NOVEMBER. PRESIDNET EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT THIS  
CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF AMERICAN PRIVATE SECTOR INTEREST  
IN GABON, AND SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO MEETING COMPANY  
REPRESENTATIVES PERSONALLY AFTER THEY HAD FIRST DEALT  
WITH RESPONSIBLE MINISTERS.

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3. I TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW FOR PRESIDENT STATE OF PLAY WITH REGARD TO TAMS AND CTMI INTEREST IN ECONOMIC STUDY FOR GRAND POURBARA AND TO OBTAIN HIS TACIT APPROVAL FOR PROCEDURES BEING FOLLOWED BY MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY.

4. IN COURSE DISCUSSION OTHER AMERICAN FIRMS INTERESTED IN GABON PRESIDENT REITERATED HIS DESIRE TO HAVE KALICK UNDERTAKE HOUSING CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR MIN-FINANCE. I POINTED OUT TO PRESIDENT THAT HITCH HAD DEVELOPED ON LATTER SINCE MINFINANCE HAD TURNED DOWN CITIBANK OFFER OF \$6 MILLION LOAN TO GOG TO FINANCE KAKICAK PROJECT AND NOW WAS WILLING ONLY GUARANTEE LOAN BY CITIBANK DIRECTLY TO KALICAK. AFTER CONSULTING WITH MINFINANCE ADVISER. PRESIDENT SAID THIS WAS COMMON GOG PRACTICE AND HE OPED DETAILS COULD BE WORKED OUT WITH CITIBANK SO THAT KALICAK COULD GO AHEAD WITH PROJECT.

5. I ALSO MENTIONED TO PRESIDENT CONTINUED INTEREST OF INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL CORPORATION IN MANAGEMENT CONTRACT FOR NEW LIBREVILLE CONFERENCE CENTER (BUILT BY YUGOSLAVS FOR OAU SUMMIT) WHICH HE HAD DECIDED TWO MONTHS AGO SHOULD BE AWARDED TO THEM. HE SEEMED SURPRISED THAT CONTRACT NOT YET CONCLUDED AND REAFFIRMED HIS DECISION TO PUT MANAGEMENT OF CENTER IN IHC HANDS.

6. COMMENT: PRESIDENT BONGO WAS CLEARLY PLEASED WITH RESULTS HIS NEW YORK VISIT IN TERMS OF PRIVATE SECTOR RESPONSIVENESS TO HIS STATED DESIRE TO WELCOME MORE AMERICAN FIRMS TO GABON. EMBASSY GREATLY APPRECIATES DEPARTMENT AND USDOC ASSISTANCE IN MAKING THIS POSSIBLE, AND LOOKS FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES IN COMING MONTHS TO STRENGTHEN AMERICAN BUSINESS PRESENCE IN GABON. STEIGMAN

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